

1. Factor which selectively interacts with a PrPSc but not with PrPc.
2. Factor according to claim 1 which is selected from plasminogen, fragments of plasminogen and derivatives thereof.
3. Factor according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that it interacts with the carboxy terminus of PrPSc.
4. Factor according to any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that it is capable of interacting with PrPSc of different species.
5. Composition comprising a PrPSc and a factor according to any of claims 1 to 4.
6. Composition according to claim 5, wherein PrPSc is bound to the factor.
7. Composition according to claim 6, wherein PrPSc is noncovalently bound to the factor.
8. A carrier comprising a factor according to any of claims 1 to 4 and/or a composition according to any of claims 5 to 7.
9. Carrier according to claim 8 which is selected from magnetic beads, filter stripes, microtiter plates, non-magnetic

15. Method for diagnosing human transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and prion encephalopathies of animals, characterized in that the material of the organism to be tested is brought into contact with a factor according to any of claims 1 to 4 and/or a carrier according to any of claims 8 to 9 and/or a ligand according to claim 10.
16. Use of a factor according to any of claims 1 to 4 and/or a composition according to any of claims 5 to 7 and/or a carrier according to any of claims 8 or 9 and/or a ligand according to claim 10 for the diagnosis of human transmissible spongiform encephalopathies or prion encephalopathies of animals.
17. Use of a factor according to any of claims 1 to 4 and/or a composition according to any of claims 5 to 7 and/or a carrier according to any of claims 8 or 9 and/or a ligand according to claim 10 for removing PrP^{Sc} from and/or inactivating PrP^C in a biological material.